

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that this has thrown several lakhs fishermen in the country on the verge of starvation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). Information will be collected and placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Involvement of NRIs in Poultry Projects

4633. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to start poultry projects in some States with the assistance of the Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the name of the States where these poultry projected are proposed to be started;

(c) whether any such poultry project is proposed to be started in Orissa;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total amount of foreign exchange expected to be earned annually from those poultry projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Oil Exploration Policy

4634. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the existing oil exploration policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). the programme and strategy for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons is decided keeping in view the objectives, resources availability etc. and undergo changes from time to time.

Petroleum Consumption

4635. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total petroleum consumption by automobiles in the country and its value in U.S. Dollars;

(b) whether the Government envisage any policy programme to go in higher scale of indigenous crude oil production to reduce the import;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total natural gas available in the country at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Consumption of petroleum products is maintained sector-wise. In view of fluctuating exchange rate of the US Dollar, the accurate value of this consumption cannot be made.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Five oil field devel-